

ARIE TAYLOR 1927-2003, ROLE MODEL FOR ALL

Colorado politics lost one of its truly great figures with the death Saturday of Arie Taylor, the first African-American woman elected to the legislature.

Like many of Denver's African-Americans, Taylor moved to Colorado after serving in the military. The Ohio native served as a staff sergeant in the Women's Air Force from 1951 to 1955. Although she never had been stationed in Denver, she had heard favorable things about the city from an Air Force colleague and moved here in 1958. About two-thirds of her family eventually followed her from Cleveland.

Taylor, who studied at Miami University of Ohio and Case Western Reserve University, ran an accounting business for many years and also held jobs with the city.

A fervent champion of minority and women's rights, Taylor, 76, was beloved on both sides of the aisle.

A passionate warrior on behalf of causes in which she believed, Taylor was good humored and gregarious, and she genuinely enjoyed what she did.

Taylor represented House District 7 from 1972 until 1984 and won a reputation as an outspoken advocate for African-Americans, women, the poor, the elderly and other groups of people who were disadvantaged.

During the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago, she castigated Southern delegations for being all white and was described by a Chicago paper as a "large, fierce black woman."

Taylor never shied away from that description. Indeed, when U.S. Rep. Scott McInnis arrived at the Colorado Capitol after being elected to the state legislature two decades ago, his 2-year-old son said, "Papa, now there's a big, fat black woman" within Taylor's earshot. The mortified McInnis proceeded to lecture the boy.

Toward the end of the day, Taylor recounted the story to the chamber, and asked the speaker of the House for an official rebuke "against Rep. Scott McInnis," noting that "his son took one look at me and called me a big, fat black woman. . . . He shouldn't lecture his son for telling the truth. The fact is, I am a big, fat black woman."

It's worth noting that when Taylor served in the legislature, there was a collegiality among lawmakers that transcended party lines. People who fought over issues tooth and nail on the floor nonetheless were good friends in private life, a tradition that sadly seems to have been supplanted in recent years by a take-no-prisoners mentality more suited to professional wrestling than good government.

"She was involved in many controversies," recalled Omar Blair, the first black president of the Denver school board. "She was a role model for a lot of young people and even a few old people like myself."

Today, Coloradans of all colors have cause to mourn the loss of the businesswoman and lawmaker with the floppy hats and a heart bigger than the Great Plains.

INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 43rd anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Cyprus.

After 80 years of British colonial rule, Cyprus became an independent Republic on Oc-

tober 1, 1960. Despite a history filled with disappointment and tragedy, the people of Cyprus remain committed to the core principles enshrined in their Constitution as well as the basic rights and freedoms for all people of Cyprus—Greek Cypriots, Turkish Cypriots and Cypriots from all ethnic and religious communities.

In recent years there have been significant advances in US-Cyprus relations and in relations between Cyprus and members of the European Union. Having signed the Accession Treaty to the European Union on April 16, 2003, Cyprus should be joining the EU in May of next year.

However, EU laws and financial benefits will apply only to the southern Greek Cypriot part of the island, which is the internationally recognized state. Unfortunately, the celebration of this historic event, as well as the anniversary of the independence of Cyprus, is clouded by the fact that 37 percent of the Republic's territory continues to be illegally occupied by Turkish military forces in violation of UN Security Council resolutions and international law.

The government of Cyprus is to be commended for its continued efforts to seek a peaceful solution to the nearly thirty-year-old Turkish occupation. I'm proud that the United States has repeatedly supported international efforts, including dozens of United Nations' resolutions, to resolve this dispute. The international community clearly is in agreement that reunification underline any future settlement. A "two-state" solution that would make the division permanent would not only give credence to an illegal invasion and the forced displacement of over 200,000 Greek Cypriots, it would be inconsistent with Cyprus's history and constitution.

I'm proud to state that I am a cosponsor of H. Res. 320. This legislation supports the removal of Turkish occupation troops from the Republic of Cyprus and expresses strong support for the European Parliament to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, Cyprus is to be congratulated for its 43rd anniversary and for its relentless pursuit of peace. However, until reunification is complete, the people of Cyprus will be unable to truly celebrate their independence.

CONCURRENT RECEIPT

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker Congress should fully fund concurrent receipt this session. It's the right thing to do. We owe it to the soldiers, airmen, sailors and marines, who have served as a source of great pride in our Nation, to fully fund the retirement that they have earned without penalizing them because they are also disabled. For every dollar given in disability pay, a dollar is taken out of retirement pay. That is wrong.

Time and time again, our veterans' needs are being ignored. Not only do America's veterans face this issue of concurrent receipt, but VA still needs \$1.8 billion to bring the fiscal year 2004 appropriation to the level set forth by the Budget Resolution. Where are our priorities?

Right now, there are 140,000 Americans serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Now,

more than ever, Congress needs to take action and fully fund concurrent receipt. We must promise this generation of servicemembers that they will be entitled to a full retirement for a career spent in the military. Today's soldier is tomorrow's veteran. We must show today's soldier that we will take care of him tomorrow.

Last year, the Bush Administration threatened to veto any bill that contained concurrent receipt. The Administration forced Congress to compromise and our veterans paid the cost. Conferees provided for a special compensation for 35,000 veterans who could prove that they had a combat-related disability that made them eligible for this special pay. Compensating just 35,000 veterans, out of over 500,000 veterans affected, is absolutely unacceptable! Now is the time for us to correct the national embarrassment caused by the care-less treatment of America's veterans.

Any proposal that leads one to believe that it is furthering last year's authorizing of special compensation, by limiting receipt of special compensation to injuries or illnesses incurred while undertaking official military duties only, is a sham! This plan would fundamentally alter eligibility requirements for disability compensation. A proposal such as this could also affect VA health care and vocational rehabilitation because these services are based on service-connected disability status. I urge Congress to reject any proposal that amends Title 38's definition of service-connection.

The Administration will argue that there is a cost barrier to fully funding concurrent receipt. This argument shows where the Administration's priorities are misplaced. If we can come up with another \$87 billion for the war in Iraq, then we can surely find the money to bring our Nation's military retirees on par with the rest of federal employees. About \$21 billion of the \$87 billion is to rebuild the Iraqi infrastructure. If we can come up with \$21 billion to build schools and hospitals in Iraq, then we certainly can come up with the money to fully fund concurrent receipt for the men and women who fought so bravely on behalf of this great Nation.

I ask that Congress fully fund concurrent receipt this Session. I further ask that VA be given the \$1.8 billion it needs so that we can show our veterans that we respect the sacrifices they made on our behalf. We need to stop talking the talk and start walking the walk.

CONGRATULATIONS, MARTIN J. "HOOT" MCINERNEY

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Martin J. "Hoot" McInerney, who will receive the 2003 Goodfellow of the Year Award at the 14th Annual Tribute Breakfast on Friday, October 3, 2003 sponsored by the Old Newsboys' Goodfellows Fund of Detroit.

The prestigious award is presented to distinguished and noteworthy people who have contributed significantly to the community. "Hoot" McInerney richly deserves this honor.

Mr. McInerney is a successful car dealer and philanthropist. He is involved in a number of organizations and charities that reflect his commitment to helping people. He is a founder of the St. Joseph Mercy Men of Mercy, the